

**TO: County Board  
Presidents/Executives/Chairpersons/Board  
Members/Administrators**

**FROM: Joe McCoy, Executive Director  
Illinois State Association of Counties**

**DATE: March 17, 2020**

**RE: Coronavirus Update for Counties**

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) is committed to providing helpful information during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Per my e-mail on Friday, March 13, 2020, please share any needs your county may have for which the federal government may be of assistance. ISACo will communicate these needs to our federal partners at the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACo is collecting a list of these needs from county associations in other states as well.

On Monday, March 16, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker issued Executive Order (EO) 2020-07 ([available via this link](#)). This EO clarifies what businesses are affected by the closures and prohibits gatherings of 50 or more people beginning on March 18, 2020. There is no end date specified for this group gathering restriction.

The EO also **suspends provisions of the Open Meetings Act (OMA)** to allow public officials to attend official meetings electronically during the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation. This provision should benefit local officials seeking to conduct essential public business over the coming weeks.

In the section of the EO suspending OMA provisions, the Governor encourages local governments to postpone public business where possible and to provide the public with opportunities to monitor meetings where electronic attendance occurs.

I encourage you to review the EO for the full details.

I also want to make you aware that ISACo has a designated blog post ([available via this link](#)) that includes updated news about the public response to the Coronavirus and other relevant information. This blog post is updated frequently as events evolve and new information becomes available. I would encourage you to bookmark the blog post and check in from time to time for relevant updates.

ISACo also has a dedicated webpage ([available via this link](#)) with federal, state and local resources about the Coronavirus and best practices to avoid transmission while promoting containment.

I have been asked by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to share information that may be of benefit to the small businesses in your county. The information is below. Please share it with your small business owners.

DCEO is working diligently to secure access to helpful resources for small businesses throughout the State of Illinois at this time. This involves coordination with the federal Small Business Administration (SBA).

As you may have heard from [SBA's previous announcement](#), "SBA will work directly with state Governors to provide targeted, low-interest loans to small businesses and non-profits that have been severely impacted by Coronavirus (COVID-19)."

As a part of this process, DCEO needs to collect information from small businesses that will be negatively impacted. This information will assist in requesting an economic injury disaster declaration from SBA.

Given your organization/business is closely tied to many small businesses, **DCEO asks that you please take a moment to distribute [this form](https://form.jotform.com/200717156003039) to your networks so DCEO can provide the necessary information to SBA.**

Helpful links regarding the COVID 19 Efforts for small businesses:

- Covid 19 Impact Survey: <https://form.jotform.com/200717156003039>
- [SBA's previous announcementhttps://www.sba.gov/page/guidance-businesses-employers-plan-respond-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19](https://www.sba.gov/page/guidance-businesses-employers-plan-respond-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19)
- [SBA Disaster Loans: https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
- [Covid 19 Tax Relief Info from the IRS: https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)
- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)  
Plan, Prepare and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Page last reviewed: February 26, 2020)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 \(OSHA 3990-03 2020\)](#)  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

Please feel welcome to contact ISACo with any questions for which we may be helpful. My e-mail address is [jmccoy@isacoil.org](mailto:jmccoy@isacoil.org). I can also be reached on my cell phone at 217/836-9164. Thanks.